

Residential Energy Saving Tips from the Maryland Energy Administration

*Reduce Your Home's Energy Consumption and
Save Money with These Easy, Low-Cost Ideas*

Lighting:

- Turn off lights when you are not using them.
- Switch to [ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs \(CFLs\)](#) from incandescent bulbs. CFLs can save 75% of the electricity used by incandescents and last up to 10 times longer. It is estimated that over the lifetime of one 60 Watt equivalent CFL bulb, you can save up to \$65. The savings are even GREATER for higher wattage bulbs.
- Look for opportunities to use natural light.
- Keep bulbs clean: Dust can reduce light output by as much as 25%



Appliances and Electronics:



- Replace your old top-loading clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR model. [ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers](#) can save more than \$80 per year in water and energy savings in Maryland!
- Set refrigerator temperatures between 35 and 38 degrees (F). Clean the coils.
- Switch to cold water washing of laundry in top-loading washing machines. Switching to cold water settings can save more than \$60 per year.
- Clean the dryer lint filter after each use. This helps to maintain optimal air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.
- Consider replacing your older model refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR appliance, especially if older than 10 years. Older models can often use over 3 times the energy of newer models. An [ENERGY STAR Refrigerator](#) bought today will only cost approx. \$60 to operate, half the cost of a refrigerator just 10 years old!
- When cooking, use a microwave or toaster oven instead of a conventional oven when possible. You'll not only save energy by using size-appropriate appliances, but will also avoid raising the temperature in the kitchen and subsequently needing more energy to cool it as a result.
- Shut off and unplug computers and other electronic appliances and chargers when you're not using them. Many computer monitors have a sleep mode setting which, when activated, greatly reduces energy consumption.

Water Usage:

- **Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).** You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.
- **Wash only full loads of dishes and air dry.** If washing dishes by hand, do larger piles at a time and remember not to leave water running in between items. Washing dishes in a dishwasher actually consumes LESS water and energy than washing by hand!
- **Install a water-saving showerhead.** Showers use less hot water than baths; also consider taking shorter showers.
- **Repair leaky faucets.** 30 leaked drops of water a minute can waste as much as 50 gallons of water per month.
- **Consider replacing your older toilet with a water efficient, dual-flush model.** You can reduce your toilet's water usage by up to 50%.



Basic Home Maintenance:

- **Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters.** A well-maintained heating & cooling system will run more efficiently, use less energy, and lower energy bills.
- **Identify and seal up the air leaks in your house**—Especially the ones that whistle on windy days, or feel drafty.
- **Close your fireplace damper and seal the opening shut when not in use.**
- **Install foam gaskets behind electric-outlet and switch-plate covers.**
- **Examine and adjust, if necessary, weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds.**
- **Turn down your thermostat in the winter and up in the summer, especially when you're not home.** Using a programmable thermostat makes this a user friendly process. Turning your thermostat back 10-15% for 8 hours can save as much as 10% on your energy bill.
- **Sufficient insulation can increase your comfort and reduce your cooling costs up to 30 percent.** Start with the attic – which can reach temperatures of 140 degrees – followed by exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces. Insulate and seal attic air ducts, too. For more information, see the [ENERGY STAR Home Sealing website](#).
- **Ceiling and other fans provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs.** Energy Star-certified ceiling fans do even better, moving air up to 20 percent more efficiently than conventional models, and those that include energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are up to 50 percent more efficient than those with incandescent lighting.

[Save Gas and Money: Click Here for Driving Tips](#)